

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (currently amended) A digital broadcast distribution signal distribution system comprising:

two or more distribution centers, communicably connected to one another through a communication line, each of said distribution centers for distributing a digital broadcast distribution signal, which has been created based on program information received in each said distribution center, to subscribers through a CATV (Community Antenna Television) network, and for sending the digital broadcast distribution signal to another of said distribution centers and for receiving a digital broadcast distribution signal from another of said distribution centers; and

subscriber terminals, each for receiving a digital broadcast distribution signal distributed from one of the distribution centers through the CATV network so that a subscriber views a program,

each said distribution center including a signal replacement section for replacing the first-named digital broadcast distribution signal created based on the program information received in each said distribution center with the second-named digital broadcast distribution signal, which each said distribution center received from another of said distribution centers, and each of said subscriber terminals including

a distribution plan storage for retaining channel distribution plans, one representing distribution setting information including at least a service ID and network information table (NIT) information of the first-named digital broadcast distribution signal of each said distribution center,

a distribution center discriminating section for discriminating the one distribution center that has created the third-named digital broadcast distribution signal, which is being received in each said subscriber terminal, and

a receiving section, for if the third-named digital broadcast distribution signal including the service ID of the program designated by the subscriber is discriminated to be transmitted

from a local distribution center, which is located in a local area in which each said subscriber terminal is located and which is one of said distribution centers, using the NIT information of the local area to receive the third-named digital broadcast distribution signal, and ~~hanging, if the third-named digital broadcast distribution signal is discriminated to be transmitted from a different one of the distribution centers from the local distribution center~~ ~~the one distribution center is discriminated not to be a predetermined distribution center, replacing the NIT information of the local area with the NIT information of the different distribution center of the third-named digital broadcast distribution signal based on the basis of the channel distribution plan~~ ~~plans~~ ~~of the one different distribution center and the predetermined distribution center, and receiving to receive~~ the third-named digital broadcast distribution signal.

2. (original) A digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 1, further comprising a local station, communicably connected to one of said distribution centers, for sending the third-digital broadcast distribution signal from the last-named one distribution center to subscribers downstream of said local station without changing at least PSI /SI (Program Specific Information/Service Information) of the third digital broadcast distribution signal.

3. (original) A digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 1, wherein said signal replacement section in each said distribution center replaces the first-named digital broadcast distribution signal with the second-named digital broadcast distribution signal in accordance with a reception state of the first digital broadcast distribution signal at each said distribution center.

4. (original) A digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 2, wherein said signal replacement section in each said distribution center replaces the first-named digital broadcast distribution signal with the second-named digital broadcast distribution signal in accordance with a reception state of the first digital broadcast distribution signal at said each distribution center.

5. (original) A digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the CATV network includes an optical fiber through which the third-named digital broadcast distribution signal is distributed to each said subscriber terminal.

6. (original) A digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 2, wherein the CATV network includes an optical fiber through which the third-named digital broadcast distribution signal is distributed to each said subscriber terminal.

7. (original) A digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 3, wherein the CATV network includes an optical fiber through which the third-named digital broadcast distribution signal is distributed to each said subscriber terminal.

8. (original) A digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 4, wherein the CATV network includes an optical fiber through which the third-named digital broadcast distribution signal is distributed to each said subscriber terminal.

9. (original) A digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 5, wherein analog transmission is performed on the third-named broadcast distribution signal while being distributed to each said subscriber terminal in the CATV network.

10. (original) A digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 6, wherein analog transmission is performed on the third-named broadcast distribution signal while being distributed to each said subscriber terminal in the CATV network.

11. (original) A digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 7, wherein analog transmission is performed on the third-named broadcast distribution signal while being distributed to each said subscriber terminal in the CATV network.

12. (original) A digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 8, wherein analog transmission is performed on the third-named broadcast distribution signal while being distributed to each said subscriber terminal in the CATV network.

13. (original) A digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 1, further comprising a repeater for relaying the third-named digital broadcast distribution signal in the CATV network.

14. (original) A digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the communication line that communicably connects said distribution centers is a ring network.

15. (original) A digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the first-named digital broadcast distribution signal and the second-named digital broadcast distribution signal of each said distribution center are sent and received through the communication line via Internet Protocol (IP).

16. (original) A digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the third-named digital broadcast distribution signal is distributed to each said subscriber terminal by using IP multicast.

17. (original) A digital broadcast signal distribution system according to claim 1, wherein each said subscriber terminal further includes a distribution plan obtaining section for obtaining the channel distribution plans that are to be stored in said distribution plan storage.

18. (withdrawn) A subscriber terminal for receiving a digital broadcast distribution signal from one of a plurality of distribution centers, each of which creates a digital broadcast distribution signal based on program information received from a provider, through a CATV (Community Antenna Television) network so that a subscriber views a program, said subscriber terminal comprising:

a distribution plan storage for retaining channel distribution plans, one representing distribution setting information of each of the plural distribution centers;

a distribution center discriminating section for discriminating the one distribution center that has created the first-named digital broadcast distribution signal received in said subscriber terminal; and

a receiving section for changing, if the one distribution center is discriminated not to be a predetermined distribution center, NIT information of the first-named digital broadcast distribution signal based on the channel distribution plans of the one distribution center and the predetermined distribution center, and receiving the first-named digital broadcast distribution signal.

19. (withdrawn) A subscriber terminal according to claim 18, further including a distribution plan obtaining section for obtaining the channel distribution plans that are to be stored in said distribution plan storage.
20. (withdrawn) A subscriber terminal according to claim 19, wherein said distribution plan obtaining section obtains the channel distribution plans through the CATV network.
21. (withdrawn) A subscriber terminal according to claim 19, wherein:
each of the channel distribution plans is distributed in the form of an Entitlement Management Message (EMM) or an Entitlement Control Message (ECM); and
said distribution plan obtaining section obtains each of the channel distribution plans from the EMM or the ECM.
22. (withdrawn) A subscriber terminal according to claim 20, wherein:
each of the channel distribution plans is distributed in the form of an Entitlement Management Message (EMM) or an Entitlement Control Message (ECM); and
said distribution plan obtaining section obtains each of the channel distribution plans from the EMM or the ECM.
23. (withdrawn) A subscriber terminal according to claim 19, wherein said distribution plan obtaining section is communicably connected to a local station through a public communication line and obtains the channel distribution plans through the public communication line.
24. (withdrawn) A subscriber terminal according to claim 19, wherein said distribution plan obtaining section is a recording medium reading section for reading the channel distribution plans from at least one recording medium in which the channel distribution plans are stored.²⁵
A subscriber terminal according to claim 18, wherein said distribution center discrimination section discriminates the one distribution center based on a toll agency identification code.
26. (withdrawn) A subscriber terminal according to claim 18, wherein said distribution center discrimination section discriminates the one distribution center based on an agency code allocated by a Certification Authority (CA).

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27. (withdrawn) A subscriber terminal according to claim 18, wherein said distribution center discrimination section discriminates the one distribution center based on a broadcast service type switching code (a network ID) or a service ID (S-ID) for a program selection, which broadcast service type switching code or service ID is input by an operator.

28. (withdrawn) A subscriber terminal according to claim 18, wherein, when said subscriber terminal is installed, the channel distribution plans are stored in said distribution plan storage.

29. (withdrawn) A subscriber terminal according to claim 19, wherein, when said subscriber terminal is installed, the channel distribution plans are stored in said distribution plan storage.

30. (withdrawn) A subscriber terminal according to claim 24, wherein, when said subscriber terminal is installed, the channel distribution plans are stored in said distribution plan storage.